

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY M I N U T E S

Wednesday, October 24, 2001

2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 127

Salt Lake City, UT 84114

MEMBERS & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT:

BREHM, Michael Brehm	Environmental LLC
HARTY, Kim	Utah Geological Survey for Rick Allis
JOHNSON, Susan	Futura Industries
LUND, Gary	Thiokol Corporation
TAKACH, Troy	Parvus Corporation
DOENGES, Peter	Evans and Sutherland, Corp
HOOPER, Gary	Brigham Young University
RASMUSSEN, Paul	USU for Brent Miller
SAUER, Dennis	

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

EMBLEY, Phyllis	Jordan School District
RICKS, Gary	Legislative Fiscal Analyst
WADE, Joseph	Legislative Research
ROGERS, Earl	Dept of Agriculture
MOULDING, Brett	USOE
GESTELAND, Ray	University of Utah

OTHERS PRESENT:

WINTERS, Suzanne	State Science Advisor
WALTERS, Clara	GOPB
HALE, Terri	Utah MESA/STEP
KIM, Debbie	CAC
CRAIG, Bill	DEQ

I. Call to Order/Introductions/Approval of Minutes

Gary Hooper called the meeting to order. The August 24, 2001 minutes were approved with the exception of removing the action item under #4. The April 25th minutes will be scheduled for approval at the next Council meeting.

There was discussion to keep the meetings on the 4th Wednesday of every other month, excluding the December 12th meeting. A suggestion to move back to committee room 223 at the State Capitol was met with approval by all. The rest of 2001-2002 meetings will be in room 223 at the State Capitol. During the Olympics, the February 24th meeting will be held off the Hill due to security restraints and the resumption of the Legislative Session.

II. Committee Reports

A. Chemical Advisory Commission - Debbie Kim

Debbie Kim, Chair of the Utah Citizen's Advisory Commission on chemical Weapons Demilitarization, addressed issues of concern at the weapons incinerator at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD). Congress has legislated by statute that each state having a chemical weapon stockpile form a Citizen's Advisory Commission to provide a forum between the citizens of that state and the Army.

When the Commission was formed in Utah, Governor Leavitt appointed Dr. Suzanne Winters as Chair of the Commission. M/G John Matthews later became Chair and upon his retirement Dr. Winters again chaired the Commission. Dr. Winters' new duties with Battelle required her to leave the Commission and Commission Member, Deborah Kim was voted in as

Chair. Ms. Kim is the Director for Emergency Response at University of Utah Hospital.

Ms. Kim gave an overview of the Commission, including information on members. She discussed the future of the incinerator and the concern of terrorist attacks. Deseret Chemical Depot is hoping to have the entire stockpile in the igloo bunkers by the time the Salt Lake 2002 Olympics begin. They also hope to have the campaign currently being worked on finished. Because the Depot will not process during the Olympics, they will use that time to do maintenance on the incinerators before the next campaign begins. Ms. Kim provided a handout of her presentation.

Members of the State Advisory Council suggested the Citizens Advisory Commission notify the public of the potential for problems with the incinerator and that citizens have the proper training in case of an accident at Deseret Chemical Depot.

B. Nuclear Waste Transportation Task Force - Bill Craig

The Department of Energy created the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) to dispose of the nation's transuranic wastes. The WIPP program built a facility near Carlsbad, New Mexico, to dispose of these wastes. Transuranic wastes are presently stored or generated at 10 DOE sites nationwide. Two of these sites must ship their waste through Utah to the WIPP site. DOE provides funding to train responders and inform the public regarding these shipments.

The products consist of plutonium waste products, such as: glassware, gloves and things that have been contaminated, but not bulk material. There have been many delays in the program. It was to start in 1988, but didn't actually begin until 1999. DOE is required to dispose of all of the waste within 30 years. Because of the delays, DOE is under pressure to move as much waste as possible, as quickly as possible.

Bill went over the handout he gave and discussed the meanings of the material categories. This year they held another Science Teacher Workshop in April. The workshop provides teachers with resources and training necessary to each radiation topics in the classroom.

Working with DOE, they have created a training program for first responders. The training materials will be available soon on a CD.

Bill has also worked with DOE to develop a new tracking and communication system application to track the WIPP vehicles. The new system, TRANSCOM 2000, became operational in October.

There have only been about 150 shipments through Utah so far. DOE projects around 200 shipments for the next few years. Currently, DOE is only shipping Contact Handled (CH) waste. These wastes emit low levels of radiation.

In six years DOE plans to ship Remote Handled (RH) waste to WIPP. RH wastes have higher radioactivity and require special handling to protect workers.

His group will continue to work with DOE to ensure the shipments are as safe as possible.

C. Science Council Marketing Plan - Troy Takach

The basis of the marketing plan is to raise awareness of the Science Advisory Council. The goal is to produce a resolution the Council will adopt, then put into motion some of the recommendations. A meeting held at Parvus Corporation with Ron Pugmire, Gary Lund and Troy Takach resulted in 11 recommendations for the Council to consider. They will be reviewed at the Executive Committee meeting in December.

- Substantial annual report, with contact information inside. Annual Report should be more concise and supply the contact information when requested
- Produce a marketing brochure, with corporate donations, containing contact information and placed with the Department of Commerce and the Travel Council
- Invite the Legislators to each Council meeting, establishing "brand" awareness
- Send meeting notices to various organizations
- Send a meeting schedule and brochure annually to the Legislature, Governor and other organizations
- Use nice meeting space, such as rooms 223 or 225 in the State Capitol
- Work on the agenda, establish fixed portions of it along with variable
- Secure more presentations at each meeting

- Work on the web page
- Request the Centers of Excellence Program (COEP) and the SVA/UTA of DCED give a presentation about goals, milestones, etc.
- Focus on research industries

A motion was made to use the concepts as a blueprint for the future of the State Advisory Council. A second by Pete and Mike was made and the vote was unanimous.

Action Item: Troy will prepare language to establish a resolution

III. Governor's Medal Committee

This committee is attempting to increase the number of nominations and the awareness of the award.

Nomination Form

Brent Miller was unable to attend the meeting. Mike Brehm presented a new nomination form which is more concise, less intimidating for applicants, easily mailed, and posted to the website. This form should expand the Council's depth of potential strong and high profile candidates.

The criteria is covered and if more information is needed from a nominee, that can be requested at a later time. The form gives continuity and categories can be added to the form.

Mike also suggested a historical winner list be added to the website.

The Council approved the form with the addition of instructions and suggested modifications made by Troy.

Action Item: Mike Brehm will send out one more draft before posting it on the website.

PR Plan

Suzanne Winters discussed the mailing list and will target several different agencies and make phone calls to verify information was received. She wants more visibility for the recipients and higher quality nominations. She is also looking for further input for areas to target. The Council member have the liberty for direct nominations.

The mailing list used last year was ineffective. This year the Committee will use various newsletters of different organizations. It was suggested the Committee contact Ed Yeates of KSL TV. Suzanne also suggested the Council divide up the list and make phone calls to verify the information was received. She will follow up with people on the list she presented.

Award Recognition

Gary Hooper introduced the award recognition process. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that money isn't as important as the award recognition. There is a need for funding to honor the recipients more appropriately, possibly by adding a type of memoriam in the Capitol, honoring them as recipients. As costs can get out of hand, it was suggested for 2002, the Council do as last year and ask each member for a contribution. This would be restricted to Council members only and will probably be necessary. Gary plans to talk with the Governor about procuring funding, though it won't happen this year due to the short fall of State funds. The main cost increase of the awards would be cash awards.

Action Item: Gary Hooper will speak with the Governor about procuring funding for future Governor's Medal Awards Ceremonies.

IV. Annual Report

In reviewing the draft Annual Report, the Council felt contact information should be added at the end, possibly on the last page. The summarized version is good and could be posted on the website with appendices. The Parowan issue and follow up information should also be included.

Paul Rasmussen suggested he take the report and see if he could condense it.

Action Item: Paul will condense the Annual Report further. Suzanne will email the file to him.

V. Other Business

Mr. Jim Jensen of NPS Pharmaceuticals has been appointed to the Council. He was unable to attend this meeting.

The State Science Advisory position will be changed to the Office of Science and Technology. The State Advisory Council will be a beneficial asset to the office.

Discussion on the Simulation High School strategy will be added as a major discussion for the next meeting, along with more information on the UTA K-12 Task Force.

The next meeting will be December 12, 2001 at 2:00 p.m., in room 223 of the State Capitol.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.